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12/16/2010

Commissioner Jeff Smith, Chair
Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

*Rec'd
12/16/10*

RE: Comments on Draft of Part 2, Chapter 7, Circulation Element of the Humboldt County General Plan Update.

Dear Chairman Smith and Commissioners,

While the Humboldt Coalition for Property Rights appreciates the amount of work and attention to detail put into the "Complete Streets" comparison chart regarding the Circulation Element we have serious concerns about the manner in which it has essentially been adopted as the chart of record.

When the commission first began to take testimony on October 14th, instead of the kind of testimony usually permitted, the Complete Streets group proceeded to give a PowerPoint presentation to the apparent surprise of some of the commissioners.

Since then, their comparison chart has somehow morphed into the document we must all comment on and to which the commissioners must refer in making your deliberations. This is extremely confusing and out of process.

While the commissioners have taken certain other groups' comparison charts into consideration during their deliberations over several of the chapters and while that has proven to be a very helpful and constructive avenue for input, we believe, in this case that the process has strayed too far.

To this very day, if a member of the public, looking to educate him/herself regarding this element goes to the County Website and downloads the comparison chart for Chapter 7, it is the original staff chart (posted May 18th, 2010) he or she would see. And that is how it should be. In our view, that is also the chart you should working off.

Another problem with deferring so completely to the Complete Streets comparison chart is that it is so closely tied to the grant process that the discussion becomes one of whether we will meet the requirements of the grant-making entity rather than the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

The Humboldt Coalition for Property Rights